

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 040755Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 0612

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US SO

SUBJ: US-SOMALI RELATIONS: ATMOSPHERICS

1. LAST TEN DAYS HAVE BROUGHT A FEW SOMALI GESTURES TOWARD US EMBASSY WHICH, WHILE OF LITTLE INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE, SEEMED DESIGNED TO CONVINCE US OF SOMALI GOOD WILL AT TIME WHEN GSDR WATCHING OUR ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS HORN WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

2. THAT THESE DO NOT RPT NOT INDICATE ANY SHIFT IN BASIC SOMALI POLICIES DRAMATIZED BY APRIL 24-25 MOGADISCIO MEETING OF "INTERNATIONAL PROGRESSIVE YOUTH CONFERENCE", JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY WFDY, PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT AND YOUTH SECTION OF GSDR POLITICAL OFFICE. THIS MEETING ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH VOLUME RHETORIC AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM AND TWO OR THREE INSTANCES OF SOMALI CRITICISM OF US BY NAME - WHICH UNUSUAL HERE AND WHICH SRC MEMBER GESS ASSURED AMBASSADOR WERE CONTRARY TO STRICT INJUNCTIONS BY PRESIDENT SIAD THAT SUCH REFERENCES BE AVOIDED.

3. ACTING FONSEC ABDURAHMAN ASKED AMBASSADOR AND DCM AND WIVES TO CORDIAL AND PLEASANT INFORMAL DINNER AT HIS HOUSE APRIL 28.

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THIS IS FIRST TIME IN AT LEAST TWO YEARS THAT ANY SOMALI OFFICIAL HAS MADE SUCH A GESTURE. ABDURAHMAN, IN EXTENDING INVITATION TO AMBASSADOR, SAID HE FELT SUCH A DINNER WAS "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOOD STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES".

4. REQUESTS OF SEVERAL MONTHS STANDING FOR COURTESY CALLS BY AMBASSADOR ON VP CULMIE AND SRC MEMBERS GESS AND MOHAMED SHEIKH OSMAN WERE FULFILLED. MOFA NOTICABLY EASIER TO CONTACT.

5. DESPITE GSDR POLICY DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO ISSUE VISAS TO HOLDERS OF OTHER THAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS IN PERIOD PRIOR TO OAU SUMMIT (STATE 068179), VISAS WERE AUTHORIZED FOR TWO US OFFICIAL PASSPORT HOLDERS. SOMALIA'S DEDICATION TO "ANTI-IMPERIALISM" AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH COMMUNIST FRONT GROUPS EVIDENCED BY ITS ENTHUSIASTIC HOSTING OF YOUTH CONFERENCE REFERRED TO ABOVE. DELEGATES WERE GREETED BY AIRPORT BANNER CONDEMNING "US IMPERIALISM" AND BY REFERENCE IN GEN. CULMIE'S OPENING REMARKS TO VICTORY OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE "OVER GREATEST IMPERIALIST POWER". ALLEGEDLY "INDEPENDENT" WEEKLY HORSEED APRIL 26 ATTACKED ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS IN DAR. WHEN AMBASSADOR NOTED DURING CALL ON SRC MEMBER GESS THAT THIS WAS ONE OF FIRST TIMES HE HAD SEEN SUCH SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF US IN HIS SEVEN MONTHS HERE, GESS REPLIED THAT REFERENCES TO US BY NAME WERE CONTRARY TO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT SIAD AND THAT HE WOULD BRING MATTER TO PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION.

6. RECENT HOSPITALITY AND MOFA ACCESSIBILITY WOULD BE UNEXCEPTIONAL IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IN BASICALLY UNCONGENIAL POLITICAL CLIMATE HERE, HOWEVER, THEY ASSUME MORE IMPORTANCE. WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THIS CONTINUES.

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